

F.Y.I.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Macomb ERT trains deputies</i>	3
<i>Basketball benefits LETR</i>	3
<i>Golf scramble</i>	4
<i>U.P. Plunge raises funds</i>	5
<i>Crime Victims' Week</i>	6

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Editor Gail Madziar.

STAFF TRAIN FOR NEW PROGRAM

The MDOC is implementing a new cognitive restructuring program in 13 Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) pilot sites. The program, Thinking for a Change, teaches offenders problem solving skills with a focus on changing the way they think.

“If offenders don’t change the thinking that drives their behavior, when they get out of prison and are faced with a stressful situation they will go on autopilot and it will lead them back to criminal behavior,” says Pam Withrow, retired warden and program facilitator.

Thinking for a Change is a behavior change program that includes cognitive restructuring, social skills development and the development of problem solving skills. The class uses a structured curriculum that



Pam Withrow led training for the first group of 41 CFA staff.

can be facilitated by any qualified staff person who participates in the intensive three-day training program.

“We saw the need for a standardized cognitive restructuring program,” said Deb Scutt, CFA Operations Manager. “We’re starting out with the current MPRI pilot sites but plans are underway to expand it to all facilities as staff become trained.”

Standardized programming allows for a seamless transition of those pro-

grams when a prisoner transfers from one facility to another.

The NIC program has been proven to use evidence-based practices and was selected because of its extensive track record in Canada and other states. Studies have shown that those offenders who have the training are less likely to re-offend.

“We originally began cognitive restructuring in 1993 at the Michigan Reformatory,” said

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STAFF TRAIN FOR NEW PROGRAM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Trainers Shelly Baldwin and Jennifer Rohrig demonstrate skill-building exercises to their group.

Withrow. “We found a direct correlation between the programming and a reduction in staff assaults, disobeying direct orders and time forfeited for misconducts, all of which reflect on the offenders’ parole possibilities.”

Thinking for a Change is offered by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) at no charge to corrections departments across the country.

A second program Cage your Rage, an anger management course, is also being implemented in all MPRI pilot site facilities.

Staff trainers for the 41 program participants included Melinda Bramon, Deb Davis, Clint Slusser, Abe French, Sandy Hoppough, Tom Marsh, Jay Kimble, John Payne, Shelly Baldwin, Jennifer Rohrig and Jerry Lynch.

PUGSLEY BLOOD DRIVE REACHES RECORD NUMBERS



Pugsley Correctional Facility staff donated 63 pints of blood at their recent blood drive. It was the most successful blood drive by the facility since opening in 2001 due to the efforts of ADW Sue Carr and staff volunteers.

From left: Penny Christou, RN; Michelle Vogelaar, Accounting Assistant, and Mike Burgess, Food Service Director (on gurney).

MACOMB CORRECTIONAL FACILITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINS SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES

Recently Macomb Correctional Facility's Emergency Response Team (ERT) instructors were called upon by the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department to train their newly-formed Jail Emergency Team.

St. Clair County recently opened a new and larger jail and the Sheriff was looking for techniques to peacefully solve disturbances.

The Sheriff's Department was certified in cell extraction and disturbance control techniques.

This is the second sheriff's department in the area that has requested training from Macomb's ERT.

Participating ERT instructors were team commander Rich Pratt and team leaders Scott Snediker, Gary Kelly, Eric Herbert and Jim Conrad.



Macomb Correctional Facility ERT members train St. Clair County deputies

BASKETBALL BENEFITS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN



The Muskegon Correctional Facility team won the basketball event.

Staff from the Muskegon Correctional Facility (MCF) squared off against staff from Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility (LRF) and West Shoreline Correctional Facility (MTF) in a basketball game to benefit the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

The game was played at the L.C. Walker Area preceding the Muskegon Mayhem game. Area 21 Special Olympic athletes gave a half-time demonstration of their basketball skills. MCF won the game for the third consecutive year with a score of 48 to 36. A total of \$1,784 was raised for Special Olympics.

In a second event the three Muskegon area correctional facilities sponsored a bowling outing with proceeds to LETR. Staff from LRF, MTF and MCF participated in the three game event raising \$1,121 for LETR.

TEXAS HOLD EM CHARITY TOURNAMENT

On Saturday, May 6, a no limit Texas Hold em Charity Tournament will be held to raise funds for the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

The location is American Legion Richard F. Smith Post 29, 3200 Lansing Ave. in Jackson. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. and play begins at 12:00 noon. Participants must be 18 and buy in is \$50 with a \$500 bonus chip available at registration for \$5. All registrations received by May 1 will be entered into a drawing to receive a free buy in for this event.

First prize is \$500 (state maximum allowed). Paying seven places if at least 100 register. Contact Mike Strzyzewski at (517) 789-7787 or (517) 780-5137 for further information.

CENTRAL OFFICE BLOOD DRIVE

The Central Office blood drive held in February resulted in 26 productive pints of blood. A total of 41 volunteers showed up to donate including four first-time donors.

MSI AND COLLEAGUES GOLF SCRAMBLE IS MAY 19

The Michigan State Industries and Colleagues Golf Scramble is May 19. Start time is 8:00 a.m. at Wolf Creek Golf Course, 6363 Burton Rd., Adrian, phone (517) 265-3944. Entry fee of \$35 per person includes 18 holes with cart and dinner at the Roadhouse Steakhouse. Reservation deadline is May 5. Send reservations to Roadhouse, 720 S. Main St., Adrian, MI 49221, Attn: Jeff. For questions contact Will Rondeau, Parr Highway Correctional Facility (517) 263-3500.

SAGINAW STAFF RECEIVE AWARDS



From left: Sgt. Tom Losito, C/O Ken St. Charles, C/O Tammy Woodley, Warden Jan Trombley, RPA James MacMeekin and Sgt. Cory Crugher.

Staff at Saginaw Correctional Facility recently received department awards.

Sgt. Tom Lositio and C/O Ken St. Charles saved a young man who drove into a ditch filled with water during a heavy rain storm last spring.

C/O Tammy Woodley was selected as Saginaw's Officer of the Year and was one of five finalists for the statewide Officer of the Year.

Sgt. Cory Crugher was the first respondent at an auto accident involving an older couple.

SECOND ANNUAL U.P. PLUNGE RAISES \$8,000



First prize for best costume went to "The Pink Poodles", a group of unidentified jumpers from the Chippewa Correctional Facility.

On March 18, 39 participants took the plunge into the icy waters of Little Trout Lake in the second annual U.P. Polar Plunge to raise funds for the Law Enforcement Torch Run

The event, sponsored by Alger Maximum Correctional Facility Torch Run Committee, generated over \$8,000 for Special Olympics. The plungers consisted of correctional staff from Chippewa, Marquette, Alger Maximum, Camp Cusino and Southern Michigan along with local citizens and Special Olympians.

KINROSS STAFF RECEIVES AWARD



Warden Linda M. Metrish, Paul Scott, and ADW Randall Haas

Paul Scott, Kinross Correctional Facility, was recently awarded the Michigan Department of Corrections Meritorious Service Award.

This award was presented to Paul as the result of his efforts over the course of several years to make KCF and Camp Koehler a better place for staff and prisoners. A sixteen-year veteran with the MDOC, Scott was responsible for developing a snow removal plan which resulted in a safer more secure facility.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK IS APRIL 23-29

Michigan Department of Corrections staff is invited to attend this year's Crime Victims' Rights Week Candlelight Vigil on April 26.

April 23 - 29, 2006, is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. State Representative William Van Regenmorter and The Crime Victim Foundation has invited staff to join them at the Annual Awareness and Recognition Program on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at 6:00 p.m., First Floor Rotunda of the State Capitol building, Lansing. This year's keynote address will be delivered by Michigan Supreme Court Justice Robert P. Young, Jr.

The event is designed to make victims of crime, professionals who work with crime victims and other caring individuals aware of the rights of victims and the work of Michigan's many victim support organizations. It is also a time of remembrance and reflection for those who have died as a result of violent crime. Many victim organizations from around the state will be in attendance and an award will be presented by The Crime Victim Foundation to an individual who has been instrumental in the crime victims' movement. The program will conclude with the candlelight vigil honoring individual victims of crime.

If you have any questions regarding this year's vigil, you may contact Crime Victim Services at (517) 373-4467.

HELP SAVE A LIFE

Join the State Employee Blood Challenge 2005-2006

Open your April calendar and schedule a blood donation today.

Here are some opportunities at SOM worksites to donate blood in April:



- 4/14 – Muskegon Heights at Brooks Correctional Facility
- 4/17 – Mt. Clemens MDOC Probation
- 4/18 – Lansing at the Public Service Commission
- 4/18 – Lansing at the Transportation Building
- 4/19 – Traverse City at the Disability Determination Service
- 4/20 – Detroit at the Cadillac Place
- 4/21 – Muskegon at the Muskegon Correctional Facility
- 4/24 – Plymouth at the Scott Correctional Facility
- 4/26 – Lansing at the Secondary Complex
- 4/28 – Grand Rapids at the MDOC office downtown

Visit the Web site at www.michigan.gov/documents/MDCH-SOM-Worksite-Blood-Drives_140655_7.pdf for details on how you can help.

There are more opportunities to donate in your community. Visit www.michigan.gov/bloodchallenge and click 'Community Scheduled Blood Drives' to find the blood agency in your county for donations.

FOURTH ANNUAL RELAY FOR LIFE GOLF OUTING

The Fourth Annual IBC Relay for Life Golf Outing is scheduled for Friday, June 9, 2006 at the Morrison Lake Golf Course. The four-person scramble has a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$55 per player and \$220 per foursome which includes greens fees, cart, lunch and a chance for door prizes. To reserve your spot call Miffer Griffin at Bellamy Creek at (616) 527-2510, ext. 1102.

All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.